

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 and 22-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

Preliminary Matters

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to acknowledge the drawings in the next office communication. Claims 1-20 and 22-30 are all the claims pending in the application.

Incomplete Office Action/Premature Finality

As an initial matter, Applicants submit that the current Office Action is incomplete. For example, MPEP 707.07(f) states that “[w]here the applicant traverses any rejection, the examiner should, if he or she repeats the rejection, take note of the applicant's argument and answer the substance of it”. The Examiner does not address our previously submitted arguments with respect to claims 8 and 14 on pages 13-16 of the previous Amendment filed on May 27, 2008. Therefore, the current Office Action is incomplete.

Moreover, maintaining the rejection on a final basis, without addressing the Applicants' previously submitted argument, is prejudicial to the Applicants. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the finality of the Office Action is premature, and respectfully request withdrawal of the improper finality.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 22 and 23 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner hold

in abeyance such rewriting until the Examiner has had an opportunity to reconsider (and withdraw) the prior art rejection of the other claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 7-10, 13-17, 20-21, 24-25, 27 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Wu et al. (US 2006/0193387; hereinafter “Wu”). For *at least* the following reasons, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claim 1

By way of a summary, the Examiner responds to the previously submitted arguments with respect to claim 1 by merely asserting that the “simplistic form the claim is misleading” (Office Action, page 3, second full paragraph). However, claim 1 states that the tag information is referred to when determining a reference picture. Therefore, in view of the Examiner’s response, Applicants respectfully submit the following argument in regards to claim 1.

Claim 1 explicitly recites, *inter alia* “determining one of the plurality of pictures to be the reference picture by referring to the tag information.”

The Examiner maintains that paragraphs [0009] and [0039] of Wu allegedly teach the claimed feature above.

Wu is related to extracting key frames from a video sequence (para. [0001]). Wu discloses a digital video sequence and a hierarchical summary based on keyframes (para. [0008]). In para. [0009], Wu discloses tagging a parent frame and seeing the children frames in a finer level of the hierarchical summary. In para. [0039], Wu discloses a reference image which is a previous or consecutive frame to a target macro-block which is to be encoded.

Wu discloses tagging a parent frame and a reference image but does NOT disclose any kind of relationship between the tagged parent frame and the reference picture. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu fails to teach or suggest “determining one of the plurality of pictures to be the reference picture by referring to the tag information.”

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu does not anticipate claim 1. Also, Applicants submit that claim 7, being dependent on claim 1, should be allowable *at least* by virtue of its dependency as well as for its additionally recited elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

Claim 8

As an initial matter, Applicants submit that claim 8 is patentable for *at least* the previously submitted arguments which were not addressed in this Office Action.

Applicants further submit that claim 8 is patentable for the following additional reasons. Claim 8 is related to a method of determining a reference picture. Claim 8 recites, *inter alia*:

- (a) performing a motion estimation process on blocks constituting a portion of a current picture by using pictures indicated by a reference index list, and determining the reference picture based on a result of the motion estimation process; and
- (b) monitoring the determined reference picture, and determining a reference picture for blocks constituting another portion of the current picture based on a result of the monitoring process.

Wu fails to teach or suggest “performing a motion estimation process on blocks constituting a portion of a current picture by using pictures indicated by a reference index list.”

The Examiner points to Fig. 6, items 610, 611, 612, and para. [0009] of Wu as allegedly teaching the claimed feature above.

Item 610 of Wu is a hard disk drive, item 611 of Wu is a floppy disk drive, and item 612 of Wu is CD-ROM drive (see Fig. 6). As discussed above, paragraph [0009] of Wu discloses a tagging a parent frame in the hierarchical summary and paragraph [0039] of Wu discloses a motion compensation process which involves a reference image. However, Wu does NOT disclose a reference index list and Wu's motion compensation process is NOT performed by using pictures indicated by a reference index list. Thus, Applicants submit that Wu fails to teach or suggest "performing a motion estimation process on blocks constituting a portion of a current picture by using pictures indicated by a reference index list."

Wu also fails to teach or suggest "monitoring the determined reference picture, and determining a reference picture for blocks constituting another portion of the current picture based on a result of the monitoring process."

The Examiner points to paragraphs [0032] and [0039]-[0042] of Wu as allegedly teaching the claimed feature above.

Wu's key frame extraction method is based on dominant global direction clusters of camera motion estimated from compressed video data (para. [0032]). In paragraphs [0039] and [0040], Wu discloses using a reference picture, a forward prediction macro-block and a bi-directional temporal prediction macro-block. In paragraph [0041], Wu discloses that not all frames have motion block vectors and in paragraph [0042], Wu discloses converting the backward (block) motion vectors to forward (block) motion vectors, which is just a change of reference and direction.

However, Wu does not disclose **monitoring** a determined reference picture and determining another reference picture for blocks constituting **another portion** of a current picture **based on the result of the monitoring process**. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu fails to teach or suggest “monitoring the determined reference picture, and determining a reference picture for blocks constituting another portion of the current picture based on a result of the monitoring process.”

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu does not anticipate claim 8. Also, Applicants submit that claims 9, 10, and 13, being dependent on claim 8, should be allowable *at least* by virtue of their dependencies as well as for their additionally recited elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

Claim 14

As an initial matter, Applicants submit that claim 14 is patentable for *at least* the previously submitted arguments which were not addressed in this Office Action.

Applicants further submit that claim 14 is patentable for the following additional reasons. Claim 14 is related to a method of determining a reference picture. Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*:

- (a) performing a motion estimation process by using a recent picture;
- (b) if a resulting value of the motion estimation process is not more than a predetermined threshold value, determining the recent picture as the reference picture; and

(c) if a resulting value of the motion estimation process is more than a predetermined threshold value, determining the reference picture by using pictures indicated by the reference index list, wherein (c) comprises (c3) preparing the reference index list.

Wu fails to teach or suggest “if a resulting value of the motion estimation process is not more than a predetermined threshold value, determining the recent picture as the reference picture.”

In paragraph [0007], Wu discloses using a threshold method to determine scene changes. Wu does NOT disclose using a predetermined threshold value to determine a reference picture. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu fails to teach or suggest “if a resulting value of the motion estimation process is not more than a predetermined threshold value, determining the recent picture as the reference picture.”

Wu also fails to teach or suggest “if a resulting value of the motion estimation process is more than a predetermined threshold value, determining the reference picture by using pictures indicated by the reference index list, wherein (c) comprises (c3) preparing the reference index list.”

As discussed above, Wu does NOT disclose a reference index list and Wu’s motion compensation process, disclosed in paragraph [0039], is NOT performed by using pictures indicated by a reference index list. Additionally, Wu is altogether silent regarding any preparation of a reference index list. Thus, Applicants submit that Wu fails to teach or suggest “if a resulting value of the motion estimation process is more than a predetermined threshold

value, determining the reference picture by using pictures indicated by the reference index list, wherein (c) comprises (c3) preparing the reference index list.”

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu does not anticipate claim 14. Also, Applicants submit that claims 15-17 and 20, being dependent on claim 14, should be allowable *at least* by virtue of their dependencies as well as for their additionally recited elements. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection.

Claims 24, 27 and 29

Independent claims 24, 27, and 29 should be allowable for reasons analogous to those discussed above in conjunction with claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Wu does not anticipate independent claim 24, 27, and 29. Also, Applicants submit that claim 25, being dependent on claim 24, should be allowable *at least* by virtue of its dependency as well as for its additionally recited elements.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 17-19, 26, 28, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Wu in view of Gelissen (US 2005/0114887; hereinafter “Gelissen”).

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 17-19, 26, 28, and 30 depend from claims 1, 8, 14, 24, 27, or 29. Gelissen does not cure the deficient teachings of Wu with respect to claims 1, 8, 14, 24, 27, and 29. Therefore, claims 2-3, 5-6, 10-12, 17-19, 26, 28, and 30, being dependent on one of claims 1, 8, 14, 24, 27, and 29, are patentable *at least* by virtue of their dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

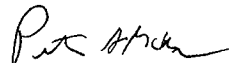
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: November 10, 2008



Peter A. McKenna
Registration No. 38,551